

having been found in Wisconsin [RHODORA, **33**: 140 (1931)]. Since there are also records of this orchid's occurrence in Missouri and Montana [in RHODORA, **42**: 521 (1940)], it seems apparent that it has spread in various directions from the probable place of its original introduction, western New York State.

One author (House) states that *Epipactis Helleborine* seems to prefer calcareous soil, and this statement is probably true. Zenkert, however, says it is not particular about the chemical composition of the soil, but is always associated with woods, past or present. It is said to prefer situations in the wild, but its behavior in the city of Buffalo seems to prove that it will grow in quite different situations.

Whatever the case may be, *Epipactis Helleborine* evidently takes kindly to our region. We can but conclude that a hunt for it on any botanical expedition in a habitat not manifestly impossible for its growth may be worth our while. My own intention is to search my favorite "South Woods" for it as thoroughly as my limited opportunities will allow. These woods have a habit of not letting me down; they are good woods, with rich soil which, though containing little lime, may quite possibly harbor a specimen or a colony of this interesting orchid. The present season will very likely bring to notice a number of new stations for the plant in New England.—EAST WOODSTOCK, CONN.

RANUNCULUS TEXENSIS ENGELM. ANTEDATED BY
R. LAXICAULIS (T. & G.) DARBY

HASKELL VENARD

SINCE the publication of Gray's Manual, ed. 7, 1908, *Ranunculus laxicaulis* (T. & G.) Darby has been used with two different meanings: 1) incorrectly, as a supposed earlier name for *R. ambigens* Wats., and 2) correctly, for the entity erroneously called *R. oblongifolius* Ell. in Gray's Manual, ed. 7, 1908 and in Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora, ed. 2, 1913.

The correct application of the name was demonstrated by Fernald in RHODORA **41**: 541-2. 1939, and has not been questioned up to the present writing. It is in no sense a nomen ambiguum et confusum, and yet it has been adopted and aban-

done in both its meanings, mostly due to the discovery of supposedly earlier synonyms, with a frequency that is almost unparalleled.

The name is usually cited as *R. laxicaulis* (T. & G.) Darby, Bot. S. States 204. 1855.¹ On the basis of this date, it was recently reduced to the synonymy of *R. texensis* Engelm. (1845) by Dr. Lyman Benson in "A Treatise on the North American Ranunculi", Am. Midl. Nat. 40: 194. 1948.

The binomial was actually first published by Darby in Man. Bot. S. States, Part II. 4. 1841.² The citation of the part is necessary because of the separate pagination of the two parts, although they are included in one volume.

Although the wording of the descriptions is identical in the two works, Darby unfortunately cited no authorities for his binomials in his earlier work. Consequently, in complete citations, the later reference should be added to the earlier one in order to show that Torrey and Gray were the authors of the basonym.

One more point is of interest. On page 6 of the preface to the 1855 work, Darby refers to "a work the author published in 1842", which is obviously the one bearing 1841 on the title-page. This is a strong indication, though not proof, that the actual date of publication was in 1842. In the absence of proof to the contrary, the date on the title-page is assumed to be correct. Cf. the example given under Art. 45 of the International Rules concerning the publication date of the first volume of Adanson's "Familles des Plantes".

In order to trace the history of *R. laxicaulis*, it may be helpful to give the complete synonymy of both *R. laxicaulis* and *R. ambigens*, including references to nomenclatural and taxonomic treatments. The letters in parentheses refer to the use of a name in the following current manuals: G—Gray's Man. ed. 7.

¹ Darby, John. 1855. Botany of the Southern States. In two parts. Part I. Structural and Physiological Botany and Vegetable Products. Part II. Descriptions of Southern Plants. Arranged on the Natural System. Preceded by a Linnaean and a Dichotomous Analysis. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. Cincinnati, H. W. Derby. John M. Cooper, Savannah. 612 pp.

² Darby, John. 1841. A Manual of Botany, adapted to the productions of the Southern States. In two parts: Part I. Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology. Part II. Descriptive Botany, arranged on the Natural System, preceded by an Analysis. Macon: published by Benjamin F. Griffin. 156 + 344 pp.

1908. B—Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. ed. 2. 1913. S—Small, Man. SE. Fl. 1933. F—Fassett, Man. Aquat. Pl. 1940.

RANUNCULUS LAXICAULIS (T. & G.) Darby

R. Flammula L., var. *laxicaulis* T. & G. Fl. N. Am. **1**: 16. 1838.

R. pusillus Poir., var. *denticulatus* T. & G. l. c. (fide Benson in Am. Midl. Nat. **40**: 194. 1948.)

R. laxicaulis (T. & G.) Darby Man. Bot. S. States, Part II. 4. 1841 (?1842), as “*R. laxicaulis*”; Bot. S. States 204. 1855, as “*R. laxicaulis* (T. & G.)”. Cf. Fernald in RHODORA **41**: 541–2. 1939, also Benson in Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. **69**: 308. 1942. The page given by the Index Kewensis, “204”, shows that the 1855 work, or one of its numerous later reprints, was used as the basis of the listing. (F)

R. texensis Engelm. apud Engelm. & Gray in Bost. Jour. Nat. Hist. (Pl. Lindh.) **5**: 210. 1845 (fide title-page). Cf. Benson in Am. Midl. Nat. **40**: 194–6. 1948, also Benson in Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. **69**: 308. 1942, where the date of publication is given as 1847, apparently as a result of misinterpretation of the Index Kewensis entry, which refers to the date of the volume.

R. oblongifolius sensu many American authors, not Ell., which is *R. pusillus* Poir. Cf. Fernald in RHODORA **41**: 541–2. 1939. (G, B, S)

R. mississippiensis Small in Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. **27**: 277. 1900. (fide Benson in Am. Midl. Nat. **40**: 194. 1948.) (S)

R. laxicaulis Darby, var. *mississippiensis* (Small) Benson in Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. **69**: 309. 1942. (“A rather poorly differentiated variety.”) Reduced to synonymy of *R. texensis* Engelm. by Benson in Am. Midl. Nat. **40**: 194. 1948.

RANUNCULUS AMBIGENS Wats.

R. Flammula L., var. *major* Hook. Fl. Bor. Am. **1**: 11. 1829. (fide Benson in Am. Midl. Nat. **40**: 183. 1948.)

R. alismaefolius sensu American authors of the middle 19th century, not Geyer, which is a plant of the western U. S. (e. g. Chapm. Fl. South. U. S. ed. 1. 1860, also Gray Man. ed. 5. 1867.)

R. ambigens Wats. Bibl. Ind. N. Am. Bot. **1**: 16. 1878. Proc. Am. Acad. **14**: 289. 1879. Cf. Fernald in RHODORA **38**: 173–5. 1936 and Benson in Am. Midl. Nat. **40**: 183, 185. 1948. (Used by Watson and Coulter in Gray’s Man. ed. 6. 1889 and by Gray in Synopt. Fl. 1895.) (F)

R. obtusiusculus sensu many late 19th and 20th century authors, probably not Raf., which is a nomen dubium (“confusum” according to Benson, l. c.) Cf. Fernald in RHODORA **38**: 173–5. 1936. (B, S)

R. ambigens Wats., var. *obtusiusculus* sensu Davis, Minn. Bot. Stud. **2**: 494. 1900, probably not *R. obtusiusculus* Raf., basonym, nomen dubium.

R. laxicaulis sensu Robinson and Fernald in Gray's Man. ed. 7. 395. 1908, not *R. Flammula* β *laxicaulis* T. & G., basonym. (G)
ATLANTA, GA.

SOME CORRECTIONS OF PROFESSOR JONES'S LIST OF VASCULAR PLANTS FROM ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA.—In the American Midland Naturalist, **40**: 475–492, 1948, there appeared a list of vascular plants from St. Louis County, Minnesota, by Professor George Neville Jones. The list of some 428 species is based on his own collections, on those of Professor W. V. Balduf and of E. J. Hill, these last dating back to 1889.

During the last fifteen years I have devoted a considerable amount of time to collecting and studying the plants of St. Louis County for eventual writing and publication of a flora. Because Professor Jones reported a number of species which I have not encountered in the area, species not previously known in the state flora, it became necessary to verify his findings by examination of his collections. Naturally I asked Professor Jones for the privilege of seeing his plants, especially the species in question. My request for the loan of specimens was courteously granted.

A number of species in Professor Jones's list appear under names which clearly do not conform to accepted rules. However, the purpose of this note is not to dwell upon problems in nomenclature, but rather to straighten out his list by eliminating species erroneously credited to the state by misidentifications of common plants.

Thus, the report of the far western *Woodsia oregana* D. C. Eaton, Jones no. 18091, rests on a misdetermined specimen of *Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh. Similarly, *Carex Grayii* Carey, Jones no. 18182, is a sedge of common occurrence throughout the area, namely, *C. intumescens* Rudge. *Rumex occidentalis* Wats., Jones no. 18096 and two other collections, is *R. Patientia* L., a spreading weed. Some collectors have confused *Viola canadensis* L. with *V. rugulosa* Greene (for differentiating characters see Fernald in RHODORA **51**: 52, pl. 1133. 1949) but Jones no. 18217 labeled as *V. canadensis* is *Viola pensylvanica* Michx. var. *leiocarpa* (Fernald & Wiegand) Fernald. Lastly, *V. palustris* L., Jones no. 18236, is *V. incognita* Brainerd, a ubiquitous white-flowered violet of Minnesota bogs.